



**Features:** Narnia enthusiast represents TU as finalist in "Disney's Ultimate Fan Contest"

**A&E:** Editor reviews new album by Fall Out Boy

**Opinions:** Student assesses Barack Obama's credentials as presidential candidate

# Blizzard freezes campus

## Classes canceled Tuesday, Wednesday for the first time in two years



Photo by Timmy Huynh

Junior Patrick Gray shovels snow into a pile to create an igloo outside of Bergwall Hall.

**By MEGAN BAIRD**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students rejoiced this week as snow morphed Upland into a winter wonderland, prompting the cancellation of Tuesday and Wednesday

day classes.

This week marked the first cancellation of Taylor classes since an ice storm in 2005 sealed 100,000 Indiana residents in a frozen wasteland, forcing the administration to dismiss students for

two days.

"I love snow days!" senior Jane Johnston said. "It reminds me of the ice storm two years ago, but much more fun since we have powder. I have been with friends making memories."

Whiteout conditions and around 15 inches of snow, much of it drifting across roadways, made traveling nearly impossible. After Tuesday's cancellation, classes were to resume after 10 a.m. chapel on Wednesday, but the administration canceled the day's classes in the morning because of these dangerous conditions.

"I think it was a smart move to cancel classes [Wednesday], at least for the commuter end of the spectrum," sophomore Jason North, a student commuter who lives eight miles from campus, said. "My dad was able to plow out our driveway, but I know other commuters who still couldn't even make it out of their driveways."

The Taylor grounds staff began clearing the snow on campus at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, working 32 hours straight.

"I think when we look at the enormity of the overall job we faced, with the wind and 14.5 inches of snow, it is difficult not to feel overwhelmed," Greg Eley, physical plant director, said. "That

is why it [was] very important for us to break the responsibilities up and [have] each individual [focus] on what part he [was] responsible for."

Working with eight snowplows and seven snow blowers, the maintenance and grounds staff first cleared paths around students' residences and dining areas, and then worked on the rest of campus.

Students also began digging their cars out of snowdrifts on Wednesday. The grounds department provided shovels and helping hands to students with buried vehicles

"The attitude of the students on campus makes a big difference," Eley said, noting the students who have thanked grounds staff or brought them hot chocolate. "Behaviors like these from Taylor University students do wonders for the team morale."

The blizzard also rearranged the Spiritual Renewal schedule, with a two-hour session, complete with singing and hot chocolate, taking

place Wednesday night to compensate for Wednesday's canceled chapel.

"The changes were a bit stressful, but God truly had it all under control," junior Casey Wittekind, Spiritual Renewal chapel coordinator, said. "Every detail came together in amazing ways, from the music to the message, and even to the hot chocolate on Wednesday night."

Most students also had a positive attitude about the blizzard's effects.

"It's been great to slow down to have great conversation or to have fun playing games," junior Katie Bertrand said. "Not that missing class is beneficial, but ... this time off is a refreshing time [for] new and old relationships."

Some students were not pleased with the lost class time, but still managed to have fun.

"It's a bit depressing to think I just spent approximately \$153 doing nothing in particular," senior Peter Dull said, "but it was a lot of fun to make a snow fort in front of Bergwall."

# SBP candidates state their views

**BRAD WOOD**

**Campaign Slogan:** "'Hello' is the first step in bridging the gap from stranger to friend."

**Campaign Color:** red

**Why have you decided to run for SBP?**



Photo by Ellen Koch

"I have decided to run because I feel like I have something different to offer the student body ... My first three years at Taylor were about finding where I fit and now that I feel comfortable, I want to lead and leave and impact during my last two years here ... This year, as vice president of media marketing services, [a cabinet within Taylor Student Outreach], I have experience being involved with weekly executive meetings. This has given me an idea of what can be accomplished within a cabinet and prepared me for working in a team environment."

**Why do you feel as though you'd make a valid candidate?**

"What I bring to the table is honesty, integrity and livelihood ... I'm basically not going to get caught up in bad politics. I plan to say things how they are. I don't want to make empty promises because in the end, it would be less beneficial to the student body if I were in a position unable to back up what I originally said."

**Any goals or visions for TU?**

"I want to lead the student body by encouraging them and challenging them to add depth to their relationships with friends and peers. I feel that if we were more real and honest with one another, issues could be better solved on our campus ... We tend to portray this persona that we have it all together, but the truth is that we don't. I just want people to realize that and work off of that point ... If this were the focus I kept as SBP, I would look at issues and ask, 'Does this help the student body or divide it?'"

**Campaign strategies? What are you doing to prepare?**

"I just bought 300 'Hello My Name Is...' nametags in red ... I plan to pass those out. Maybe I will suggest that people wear the nametags on certain days as a symbol of taking a step to actually bridging that gap ... People are more than welcome to approach me and ask questions."

\* More information about Wood's campaign is posted on his Facebook group, "Student Body President Primary Debates."

**TAMARA SHAYA**

**Campaign Slogan:** "Shaya will take you higha."

**Campaign Colors:** yellow and turquoise

**Why have you decided to run for SBP?**



Photo by Ellen Koch

"A few people encouraged me to run as SBP as a freshman, but because I was so young, I had no intention of running ... MaryAnn Lind, who has served as a mentor to me, gave me the best advice, which was, 'Pray about it and ask God to increase your desire to run if he wants you to run and decrease it if he doesn't want you to run.' I kept on praying that and God just really put it on my heart to run."

**Why do you feel as though you'd make a valid candidate?**

"The leadership positions I have held at Taylor, along with my working with administration, faculty and staff, inspire me to make this a better university. I believe in the students here ... I want to be that person on campus, ... where if people want to talk to me, I want them to feel like they can. I want more communication between students and [the] SBP."

**Any goals or visions for TU?**

Five step platform: student focused, helping others, available to students, equipping students and annual world religions week.

"One thing I'm very passionate about is social justice. God calls us to stand up for the oppressed and the poor ... I plan to team up with TSO and Taylor World Outreach and work with Global Outreach, as well to focus on one social injustice each month."

**Campaign strategies? What are you doing to prepare?**

"I have campaign managers, and they have been working hard with me since Christmas ... We've been handing out fliers all over campus and we're getting a quote from each person on a wing about me and my character." Also: launched a rap video on YouTube; handed out hemp bracelets with yellow and turquoise beads.

\* More information about Shaya is posted on her Facebook group, "Shaya for SBP."

**JESS WITTEBOLS**

**Campaign Slogan:** "I choose Jess."

**Campaign Color:** orange

**Why have you decided to run for SBP?**



Photo by Ellen Koch

"I love the students of Taylor and more than anything, I would love to represent them. I look around this campus and think, 'What I can contribute as a leader to improve what we have and make it better?'"

**Why do you feel as though you'd make a valid candidate?**

"I have been very involved in Taylor's campus, which is why I understand how crazy college life can be. I run from meeting to meeting and I understand what it's going to take to rework things so that students are able to succeed. It's hard to balance between academics, other involvements and our spiritual lives. So often we compartmentalize things."

**Any goals or visions for TU?**

"I would love to use the word 'refocus' as a keyword. Taylor students are all over the place doing amazing things. They're involved in ministries, committees, social justice, and the list goes on and on. It's simple ... My vision would be to take what we're already doing and do it better. There is no need to add 100 new things to this campus because people are already stretched too thin."

**Campaign strategies? What are you doing to prepare?**

"The biggest thing I'm preparing for right now is the debates on Monday. I want people to see my heart, who I am and how devoted and excited I am about the possibility of being SBP ... I just want to touch people on campus that I don't already know. I have a lot of work to do to make sure people know me and understand that I genuinely care ... So far, "I Choose Jess" posters have been hung up by people who specifically support me ... I want people to vote for me because they ... trust me or because they've heard it from someone who does."

\* More information about Wittebols is posted on her Facebook group, "Jess Wittebols For Student Body President!!!"

**Interviews completed by Lauren Free, Contributor**



# Broadway thriller brings upper-class NYC to TU



Photo by Timmy Huynh

Student actors rehearse for Taylor's production of the psychological thriller "Night Watch."

BY MIA WALES  
NEWS EDITOR

Intrigue surrounding the death of an unidentified man begins tonight with the opening of "Night Watch," a psychological thriller and Broadway success presented by Taylor Theatre.

The plot follows John and

Elaine Wheeler, a wealthy couple living in a posh apartment in New York City.

Elaine, an insomniac, looks through her sitting room window one night and sees a dead man slouched in an armchair in an abandoned tenement across the street.

When Elaine shares this information, no one – includ-

ing the police – believes her, attributing it to an eidetic image caused by sleeplessness. The story ends in a dramatic twist after many surprises and shocking revelations.

"Night Watch" had initially intrigued Director Tracy Manning because the Taylor Theatre has not performed a mystery in years.

"I didn't want to do ... a traditional Agatha Christie run-of-the-mill, the-butler-did-it kind of [mystery]," Manning said. "I wanted to do something interesting and engaging."

Manning said the show is unique because it challenges viewers to consider the difference between the truth and their perception of the truth.

"In our lives we perceive [the] truth ... [then] find out at the summation that it wasn't true at all. It was just our perception," Manning said. "There are some absolute truths ... about God and ... our Christian faith, but what about [our perceptions of] all the gray [areas]?"

Manning also appreciates the play because it addresses social issues from a non-Christian worldview.

"These are not believing people that we're portraying here. They make some choices ... that [Christians] don't make," Manning said. "Everyone is going to leave [Taylor] and they are going to be in a world where people make [wrong] choices. How do we approach those people with grace?"

Manning selected the cast members after two days of auditions.

"I really try to walk in with a clean slate and wait to see what student-actors are going to bring to me," Manning said. "If they sell it, I'm going to buy it."

Senior Jenna Hanchey, a physics/mathematics education major, will make her Taylor Theater debut as Elaine Wheeler.

"This was the first semester that I actually had time [to participate in theater]," Hanchey said. "I was involved in the theater all throughout high school and had wanted to be at Taylor. When I realized how relaxed this semester would be, I decided to try out."

Hanchey is thrilled to perform in a mystery play.

"I must admit, I'm an Alfred Hitchcock fan and 'Night Watch' kind of reminds me of his style," Hanchey said. "It's intriguing and keeps you guessing right up until the end."

Senior Josh Zehnder, cast in the role of Curtis Appleby, a neighbor of the Wheelers, appreciates "Night Watch" because it varies from former

Taylor plays.

"The mystery of the plot makes for an evening of suspense and excitement," Zehnder said. "Also, it is set in present-day New York, which makes the set and costumes stand out."

Communication faculty member Cory Rodeheaver, who designed the set of "Night Watch," researched upper-class New York apartments and examined pictures depicting the New York lifestyle.

"Some of the characters in [the play], their attitudes are very cold, so I wanted ... a cold, detached kind of feel to [the set]," Manning said. "The set looks very modern ... like a New York apartment. It's not a ... warm, cozy place."

Taylor Theatre will perform "Night Watch" at 8 p.m. in Mitchell Theatre on Feb. 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24. The cast will also perform at 10 a.m. on Feb. 22.

Tickets are \$6 for students and \$7 for adults and are available at the theater box office.

# Hoop dreams create the possibility of a free TU semester

BY CHRISSIE THOMPSON  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

This year, students paid \$10,900 per semester, but one Taylor student could win the chance to see that sum back in his or her bank account.

A student holding the winning ticket at tomorrow's home men's basketball game against Indiana Wesleyan will get a chance to make a half-court shot to win the tuition reimbursement.

Juniors Aubrey Wright and Kyler Faust created this event, sponsored by the athletic department, as part of their sports management practicum. Athletic Director David Bireline said he created the promotional expressly for Wright and Faust.

"We're trying to help out these two young ladies have a positive experience and get a real-life experience," he

said.

Wright and Faust then bought an insurance policy that will cover the semester's tuition if the student makes the shot. If the student misses, the insurance company makes a profit on the athletic department money used for the policy. Faust declined to disclose the amount of money or the insurance company used to finance the event.

Also tomorrow, two students will play a version of "Deal or No Deal" for a chance to win up to \$100 cash from the athletic department's budget.

Additionally, the first 250 students at the game will receive free T-shirts with the letters "TUBB" and a basketball logo on the front and a Trojan head on the back.

Wright and Faust also organized the two promotional contests at Saturday's home

game against Goshen. Three students unsuccessfully attempted 3-pointers to win free textbooks for a semester, while two students won cash by making as many baskets as possible in 60 seconds.

Faust and Wright said the promotion at last weekend's game attracted additional student fans.

"We thought that [free textbooks and tuition] would just really get people's attention, and it seemed to have worked, so far anyways," Wright said. "[Games] hadn't seen that many students [this year], especially at a Saturday afternoon game."

Faust estimated between 75 and 100 students attended the game, about 25 to 50 more than usual at a Saturday game. About 100 students attend the other home games throughout the week, Faust said.

Although both women hope the promotion increases attendance, Wright said she also hopes to see an increase in school spirit.

"It doesn't necessarily matter how many people we get there," she said. "We want to see people get into the game, and getting people there is the first step."

The two chose the 3 p.m. game against Indiana Wesleyan - the last home game of the year - as the venue for the contest because of the rivalry between IWU and Taylor.

Although a Trojan win against the Wildcats may seem unlikely — No. 10 NAIA (Division II) Indiana Wesleyan (25-3, 13-2 Mid-Central Conference) beat Taylor (14-15, 6-9) 69-39 Jan. 16 — Wright said she thinks more fan attendance always helps a team.

"I heard we hardly had any

people [at the Jan. 16 game]," she said. "Everyone always used to go to those games."

Faust agreed with Wright. "IWU brings tons of students every year, so it'd be great to have enough students," Faust said. "We're right here on campus."

Despite the excitement at the chance to win so much money, some students disagreed with the decision to spend athletic department money on the contest.

"I understand that the athletic department is trying to draw student support to the games, but I'm not sure it's the most effective way," junior Casey Wittekind said, noting that a student has little chance of making the half-court shot.

"It's a big waste of money to have someone pay for the insurance if there's a .1 percent chance of someone

making it," senior Zach McCormick said.

Junior Paul VanDemark thought an investment to try to increase attendance would make sense if the athletic department could profit from the additional students attending the game.

"It would make sense if they charged admission," he said.

But junior Jeremy Jordan said he thought the promotional idea would be successful because it would help Wright and Faust reach the goal Bireline gave them of attracting students to the game, even if the athletic department will lose money on the venture.

"This idea comes from practicum students ... whose [review from Bireline] depends on how many students show up at the game," he said.

# Taylor faculty kick off a week of scholarly inquiry on Upland's campus

BY MEGAN BAIRD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students often lose the love of learning once they reach college, but the first week of "Celebrating Scholarship and Inquiry: From Shakespeare to the Stratosphere" aims to ignite this former passion.

"We want to give students an opportunity to appreciate the role of research and inquiry in the academic process," Faye Chechowich, dean of faculty development, said. "We hope this series of events will inspire a deeper understanding of what it means to love God with all of our minds."

This event began yesterday with the Making Literature conference, which features paper presentations by students and authors, including Paul Willis, who wrote "Bright Shoots of Everlastingness: Essays on Faith and the American Wild."

Discussions and fairs will occur through Thursday, with the Center for Research

and Innovation, which supports research on Taylor's campus through grants, and the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence sponsoring these events.

"This week will be a time of both celebrating the great scholarship occurring at Taylor and inspiring us to new research and scholarship possibilities," Center for Research and Innovation Director Don Takehara said. "Research and scholarship is not just for a select few at Taylor University. It is for everyone."

On Monday, Taylor alumnus (1961) Joe Brain, director of the Harvard Center for Environmental Health, will discuss the importance of research at Taylor.

Tuesday's events will include a Faculty Research Fair, where faculty members will present their research using posters, photographs and videos.

"The ... fair is a great opportunity to see what research and scholarship faculty members have devoted

their careers to," Takehara said.

Professors Jim Spiegel, Rachel Smith and Thom Satterlee will speak on Tuesday night.

"[We're] hoping that students will benefit from hearing these faculty members talk about the process of writing," Chechowich said. "We hope this week's events will provide lots of opportunities for student [and] faculty interaction."

New innovations in technology will be featured at the Technology Fair on Thursday. Students will have opportunities to win books at Wednesday's "Meet Taylor Authors" fair.

The week ends with Thursday's student poster contest, where students will present their research.

"Students and faculty are engaged in some really interesting research projects," Chechowich said. "These research projects and writing projects have a direct impact on the academic life of the university."

# Special Olympians take a winning spirit to the courts in annual basketball tourney



Photo by Timmy Huynh

The Special Olympics Basketball Tournament took place in the Kesler Student Activities Center on Saturday. Athletes from across the state of Indiana came to compete. Coach Dorothy Stover prays with her team, the Clinton County Golden Wolves, before their second game. "It's their team; it's their work," Stover said. "I just want to point them in the right direction."



# Kizer competes to be Narnia's 'Ultimate Fan'

One of six finalists, Kizer's video could win him a trip to the set of the next Narnia film

BY ROBIN SNYDER  
STAFF WRITER

Forget the wardrobe; sophomore Randy Kizer has found a new portal into Narnia through Disney's Ultimate Fan Contest.

Kizer, one of the contest's six finalists, had to demonstrate through a video, written work or illustration why he is Narnia's biggest fan.

If Kizer wins, he will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the set of the next Narnia film, "Prince Caspian," where he will write about the day's events for the Narnia.com production blog.

According to Kizer, a communications new media production major, the filming will probably take place in the Czech Republic or New Zealand, the set's primary locations.

"This would just be a really huge experience ... to be able to actually talk to some people who are involved and just see all the hustle and bustle on the set," Kizer said.

Kizer's entry is the only video submission among the finalists. Disney will select the winning entry based on the number of votes it receives on Narnia.com.

"[The books] just ... showed me how the genre of fantasy and the whole idea of storytelling is a powerful tool. It can have impact on adults as well as children"

- Randy Kizer -

The video reveals sweeping close-ups of his own Narnia-inspired fantasy world, complete with rivers, castles and armies of hand-painted figurines.

Kizer has avidly collected figurines for nearly seven years, developing this passion after looking at his uncle's miniatures displays. His uncle bought Kizer his first miniature in middle school, and Kizer began constructing his own miniatures in 2001.

"My dad is an engineer so he wanted to make sure all my buildings were structurally accurate," Kizer said, "but he likes construction so he eagerly joined in the hobby."

Kizer's friends also participated in the fun by collecting their own figurines to invade the otherwise peaceful fantasy world.

"Sometimes we would pit our forces against each other and have epic battles," Kizer said. "Warhammer [a tabletop wargame] puts out a rule book on how to fight battles with miniatures."

Kizer created each miniature from scratch, carving rocks from green floral foam, and then covering them with putty and painting them.

He created the rivers by using dark green paint on a shallow trough and then filling the channel with a reflective solution. Foam core and balsa wood formed the general structure of the buildings, while the more intricate miniatures were carved in Sculpey Clay.

But Kizer received inspiration for more than miniature building.

"Narnia not only hooked me on fantasy, but the adventures of its memorable characters propelled me through a decade of martial arts training," Kizer said in his video.

Kizer currently has a second-degree black belt in taekwon do.

Narnia's magic has opened Kizer's eyes to the world of literature and the power of storytelling. He first read the "Chronicles of Narnia" at age 10.

"[The books] just ... showed me how the genre of fantasy and ... the whole idea of storytelling is a powerful tool. It can have impact on adults as well as children," Kizer said.

If Kizer wins, he will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the set of the next Narnia film, "Prince Caspian," where he will write about the day's events for the Narnia.com production blog.

Kizer eventually wants to use his media production skills in the film industry, telling stories through his cinematography.

A more immediate goal, however, is doing all he can to win the Ultimate Fan Contest by voting every day and encouraging other people to vote. His friends and family have launched an unofficial advertising campaign, chiefly spreading the word via e-mail.

Kizer has received replies

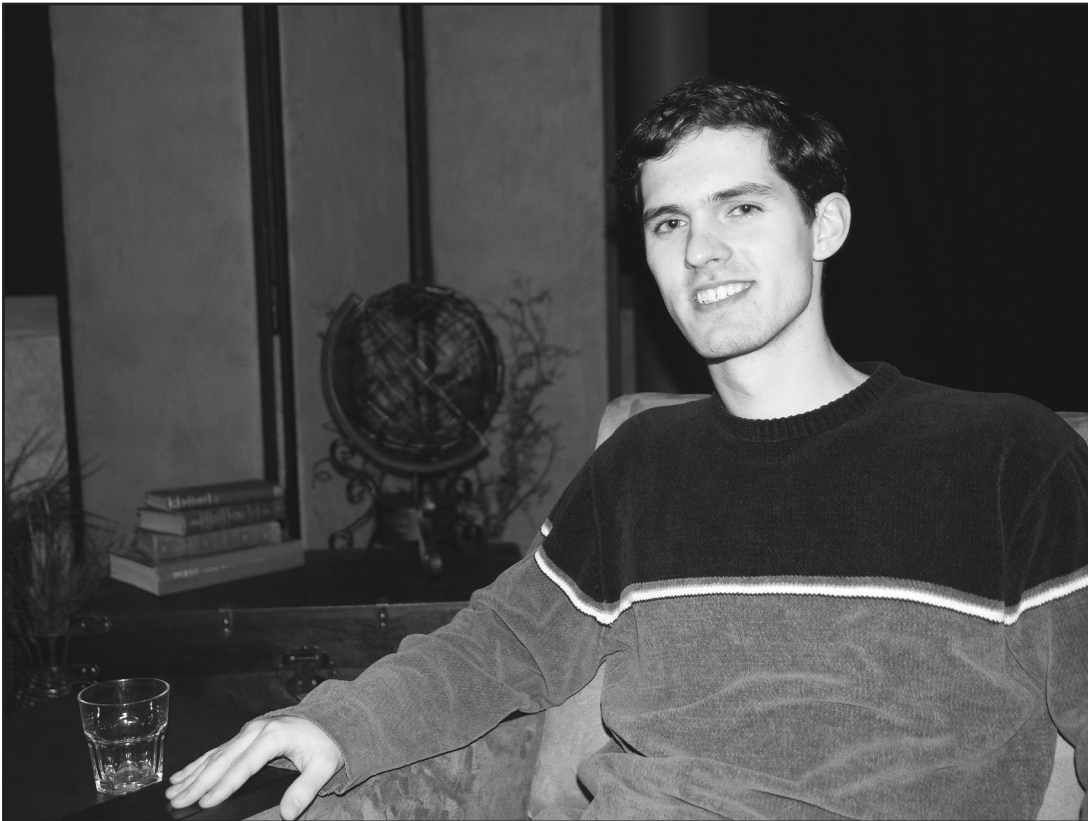


Photo by Ellen Koch

In order to win Disney's Ultimate Fan Contest, Randy's video submission must be chosen by popular vote as the best submission in the contest.

to these e-mails from strangers in locales such as Colorado and Indonesia.

Still, Kizer said, winning isn't everything.

After voting for his entry, a missionary for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Indonesia contacted Kizer to see if he was interested in filming for a Bible translation celebration

in 2008.

Moody Bible Institute recently contacted Kizer to request his participation in a radio interview in Chicago. He turned down the road trip, but accepted the offer to participate in the radio show. The show aired this morning.

"It's interesting to see that

this is not just the contest, but it's ... becoming broader than that," Kizer said. "Who knows! Maybe I will be down there filming that [for Wycliffe]."

Voting ends Feb. 23. Vote for Randy daily at [http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/narnia/fanclub/fanclub\\_winners.html](http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/narnia/fanclub/fanclub_winners.html).

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"I thought I had no chance of making it to the [finalist round]," Kizer said. "I mean, this is Disney's official Web site. Thousands and thousands of people go through [there], so I figured making it to the [finalist] round would be the hardest step."

Kizer said he loves watching specials about movie production, and his video submission reflects this passion.

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# Audiences escape reality through 'Pan's Labyrinth'

By JOSH PORTER  
A&E EDITOR

Much to audiences' joy, studios have released a great fantasy film nearly every holiday season for the past several years.

"The Lord of the Rings" trilogy (2001-2003) and "The Chronicles of Narnia" in 2005 left some hefty shoes to fill for 2006, which is perhaps why last year's "Eragon" was such a letdown.

Enter "Pan's Labyrinth," a fantasy film many people didn't know existed until recently. It was released in a few theaters on Dec. 29 and immediately got the attention of critics and earned six Academy Award nominations, including Best Foreign Film. The film is playing in the Marion Kerasotes Showplace 12 theater, and it's well worth the trip.

"Pan's Labyrinth" takes place in fascist Spain in 1944 and comes mainly from the perspective of a young girl named Ofelia.

Ofelia's mother discovers she is pregnant with the child of a captain in the Spanish army. Despite the risks of traveling while pregnant, she and Ofelia move to a rural part of northern Spain to live with Captain Vidal.

Ofelia is understandably afraid of her new surroundings and allows herself to be



Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

"Pan's Labyrinth" has received nominations for six Academy Awards, including Best Foreign Film, Screenplay, Original Score, Cinematography, Art Direction and Makeup. The film received an R rating for graphic violence and some language.

caught up in a fantastic imaginary world of fauns and fairies as an escape.

The true beauty of this film lies in its seamless combination of fantasy and reality. To Ofelia, this fantasy is reality, and the audience also sees it this way for most of the movie.

The characters the girl meets, the places she goes and the events that transpire as a result keep her safe and comforted in her chaotic surroundings. By the end of the film, it's completely obvious that every one of Ofelia's contrivances had a purpose.

"Pan's Labyrinth" demonstrates an elaborate vision that only a skilled filmmaker could have accomplished. Writer and director Guillermo Del Toro deserves much credit for this project, considering his last two films were "Blade II" and "Hellboy" - not ex-

actly the best track record, but his experience and vision with prosthetics and makeup certainly contributed to the success of "Pan's Labyrinth."

The film also uses a decent amount of well-done computer animation, but many of the creatures are not com-

puter generated. They're extremely believable as fantasy characters, and it's important for the audience to believe in them as much as Ofelia does.

The film does have a couple of minor shortcomings, the most obvious being the excessive violence. For a film with a subject so innocent, you'd think it would be accessible to more general audiences. However, several disturbingly violent scenes more than earn "Pan's Labyrinth" an R rating. Perhaps Del Toro used the violence to show the contrast between Ofelia's innocent fantasy and her ugly reality, but he still could have toned the bloodshed down to a PG-13 rating without losing its effectiveness.

I also found myself wishing the film explored the fantasy realm a bit more. As is, the film is about 80 percent grounded in reality, leaving only 20 percent for Ofelia's spectacular imagined world. The amazing detail put into the fantasy world leaves the viewer begging for more.

Ultimately, "Pan's Labyrinth" is an excellent addition to the already impressive collection of recent fantasy films. Any adult who remembers what it's like to be a child should see this film, remembering that it's more violent than "The Lord of the Rings."

(Movie Rating: 9 out of 10)

## Fall Out Boy's new album is a step in the right direction

By JOSH PORTER  
A&E EDITOR

Most people who know how to operate a radio know of the band Fall Out Boy.

This band gained a decent amount of popularity with its second album, "Take This to Your Grave" (2003), but its real success came in 2005 with the debut of a third album, "From Under the Cork Tree." Singles like "Sugar We're Going Down" and "Dance, Dance" gained instant popularity, and it became impossible to listen to any pop radio station for 10 minutes without hearing Fall Out Boy.

Because of the excessive radio play, Fall Out Boy effectively made its unique sound obsolete and a little cliché. The band clearly needed a new sound for its fourth album, and "Infinity on High," released Feb. 6, certainly marks a change in

the band's direction.

The album has an excellent beginning. "Thriller" is an appropriately catchy first track, but what makes it oddly memorable is the intro by Jay-Z. The opening makes for a clever satire of mainstream music and an appropriate introduction to a song dedicated "to the fans that held us down till everyone came around."

The album continues with an uncharacteristically wide variety of songs. Tracks like "This Ain't a Scene, It's An Arms Race" and "The (After) Life of the Party" include a hint of offbeat electronica, something Fall Out Boy formerly was reluctant to embrace. "Thnks Fr Th Mmrs" and "I've Got All This Ringing in My Ears and None on My Fingers" add orchestral instruments to the mix. "Golden," a slow and contemplative song set to piano and organ, makes for a

dramatic departure from the band's usual repertoire.

Despite the uniqueness of Fall Out Boy's new tracks, the band still manages to keep its identity. For instance, band members haven't changed their tendency towards unnecessarily long song titles ("I'm Like a Lawyer With the Way I'm Always Trying to Get You Off"). It's a potentially annoying quirk, but nothing too serious.

Also, the subjects Fall Out Boy sings about are still rather straightforward. Songs about adoring fans or remembering the innocence of youth are old, but Fall Out Boy tackles these subjects with poeticism, using clever metaphors and irony to get the message across. This is something many mainstream punk bands lack, and it's what gives Fall Out Boy so much credibility. The band members effectively achieve the status of real artists

amongst a multitude of posers and sensationalists.

Much like Fall Out Boy's previous albums, "Infinity on High" has a few throw-away songs. Some of them just aren't very creative or complex, as if they're just there to fill out the album. It would have been nice to see a more unified, solid disc. Overall, fans would probably be more satisfied with a better album than a speedy release date.

"Infinity on High" does many things right. It delivers new material to an increasingly competitive genre. It also alters the band's sound with some much-needed experimentation, while still retaining the catchy melodies and complex vocals that made the band so popular. It's not, however, the band's best work overall. Despite this, it's an indication to general audiences that Fall Out Boy is here to stay.



Photo courtesy of popartuk.com

"Infinity on High" was released Feb. 6. Its first single, "This Ain't a Scene, It's An Arms Race," debuted at #1 on the Billboard charts.

## Clifford and Newby bring visual feast to Metcalf

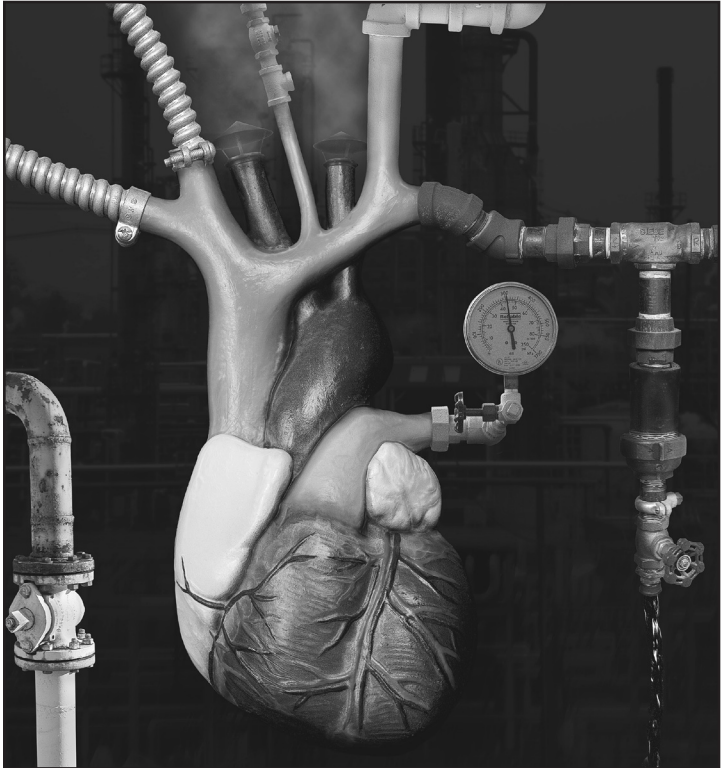


Photo courtesy of Trevor Clifford

Trevor Clifford's show "Seven things God hates about you" draws inspiration from Proverbs 6:16-19. Shown here is the fourth work in the series, depicting the "heart that devises wicked schemes."

By ANDREW NEEL  
SPORTS EDITOR

Two senior art shows debut today in the Modelle Metcalf Visual Arts Center, both providing unique perspectives about familiar subjects: eyesight and the human body.

Erik Newby's photography and video show, "Inlumino," runs until March 6 in the Tyndale Galleria. Trevor Clifford's show, "Seven things God hates about you," consists of edited digital photographs and occupies the Metcalf main hallway until March 6.

Newby's show gives a glimpse of post-blind syndrome, a situation which involves the restoration of a blind person's sight.

"Someone with post-blind syndrome may be able to see the world, but they perceive

it differently than someone who has been able to see their whole life," Newby said. "Nothing makes sense to them. They can see, but they haven't learned to see."

By focusing on color, light, motion and water, Newby hopes to demonstrate what having post-blind syndrome might be like.

"I want someone to walk away from my show and perceive the world in a new light, in a way they've never seen it before," Newby said.

Newby, a new media photography and graphic design major, said he believes learning to see the world involves a spiritual element.

"God needs to teach us

**"God needs to teach us understanding; the world won't make sense to us unless God teaches us how to see."**

-Erik Newby-

understanding; the world won't make sense to us unless God teaches us how to see," Newby said. "I would love to portray some of the beauty that God has surrounded us with, and there

are so many dimensions of beauty."

Newby said part of the inspiration for his show came from the biblical passage in Mark 8:23-25 where Jesus heals a blind man by spitting on the man's eyes. Newby said Jesus actually healed the man twice: First the man could only see blurred images, and the second time Jesus completely restored the man's sight.

Clifford's show, "Seven

things God hates about you," addresses Proverbs 6:16-19, which lists seven sins, each associated with a body part.

In his artist's statement, Clifford said the passage stood out to him because of "its straightforwardness and its descriptive personification of body parts."

Clifford, a new media graphic design major, used edited digital photographs to present a graphic portrayal of the consequences of sin. Clifford used himself as the primary model in all of his photographs.

"I am just as guilty of these things as anyone else," Clifford said in his artist's statement. "I want my images to act as a stark reminder of the harm we are capable of causing others."



The Jesus agenda

Church signs and bumpers stickers



By JENNY DeGEYTER  
COLUMNIST

My friend had a dream the other night about Jesus returning to his church. In his dream, the sky went black and Jesus came into the church and began to preach from the pulpit. My friend remembers being reluctant to fall on his face in reverence to this Jesus in his church.

In my friend’s description, Jesus was a blonde, greasy kind of man, like a man who sells washing machines in Sears and doesn’t wear undershirts. The felt, cutout Sunday school characters I grew up with are starting to come to life in my mind. Maybe Jesus is not the brown-haired, bearded, sandal-wearing man we’ve been accustomed to seeing.

At church on Sunday, my pastor spoke about the prostitute at the well. She was a marginalized woman, a Samaritan, a sinner. Yet she was

interested in Jesus and who he was and was genuinely honest about her condition after Jesus revealed her past.

At the passage’s conclusion, Jesus did not conventionally lead her to salvation. Instead, he was simply interested in her lifestyle. What the woman did was revolutionary: She left Jesus and returned to her townspeople.

What did the disciples do? They had gone into town to retrieve food; they were away from the action. And when they returned, they only brought food, something material for Jesus.

What we prioritize as important is rarely important to Jesus. He cared about the woman’s life and the lives of her friends.

The Samaritan woman, the original protagonist in the story, was the hero. Maybe what we assume about who Jesus is and what he desires isn’t actually the truth. He wants us to go into our communities and into the world, to get people and bring them to him.

We must remember the agenda closest to God’s heart: The sinful, marginalized people.



By MARC BELCASTRO  
OPINIONS EDITOR

French author and satirist Voltaire said, “A witty saying proves nothing.”

Several years ago, when I first encountered this quote, its meaning was quite lost on me. Recently, a specific application of the quote, directly concerning the purpose behind church signs and bumper stickers, has provided (I hope) some clarity, illuminating a bit of what Voltaire may have had in mind.

Essentially, I want to discuss my belief that using church signs and bumper stickers to express our ideologies is wrong, no matter how passionately or loosely we are entrenched in them.

I realize I must tread very carefully here. The display of bumper stickers is a widespread practice, especially when articulating a political affiliation, a religious senti-

ment or some other morality-laced utterance whose motive is, I suppose, to make us think. Same for church signs or, more explicitly, the allegedly pithy phrases arranged on them.

It is certainly not my intent to offend, but I believe their use is extremely imprudent because, at best, they only present devastatingly wa-

They only present devastatingly watered-down versions of whatever truth they were created to represent.

For example, one bumper sticker with which many are familiar reads, “Abortion Stops A Beating Heart.”

The debate surrounding abortion issues is unquestionably complicated, oftentimes very heated and ostensibly irresolvable.

What place does a bumper sticker, which cannot offer any more relevant points or defend its stated position, have in the abortion debate?

Has it, to date, convinced any abortion rights proponents of the apparent error of their ways? Has society in general, or participants in the abortion debate in particular, benefited in the least from knowing that the owner of the white Volkswagen Passat in front of us on the highway does not advocate abortion?

If these bumper stickers are actually changing lives, please do not hesitate to bring that to my attention. I will gladly retract any and every argument I have made, and I will readily be the first to admit the error of my own ways.

Let us now discuss the efficacy of church sign aphorisms. Christians, of course, generally regard churches as buildings in which people can gather on a regular basis to worship God and hear sermons preached. Most Christians, I think it is safe to say, believe they possess a soul-saving truth about Jesus Christ and his love for the

world, as revealed to them in the divinely-inspired Bible.

Consider this: When someone — for example, an unbeliever — drives by a church and sees “God grades on a cross, not on a curve” on a church’s sign, has Christianity’s sacred faith been accurately represented or appropriately distilled to the unbeliever? Does the unbeliever think to himself or herself, “That phrase was rather catchy. When I get home, I’m going to investigate its truth myself and join the people who like advertising their most fundamental beliefs on a sign”?

I would prefer the sign to say nothing, or, if anything, the times of the services and perhaps the subject of that week’s sermon.

Church signs and bumper stickers dilute and mitigate the thrust of whatever it is they are trying to express. They are deficient and helpless and should not be used, especially by believers. They cannot possibly accomplish the purpose motivating their displaying, because Voltaire was right: A witty saying does prove nothing.

We are bringing smiting back



By CHRIS HOSKINS & STEVE CONN  
COLUMNISTS

Hello, and welcome to the premiere second semester appearance of “The Integration of Danger and Culture,” the literary equivalent of zombie Beethoven, lurching through a crowded Viennese concert hall.

This literary duo was extremely excited the other day (well, a couple months back, actually) to receive an earth-shattering announcement of great importance to all of us. Apparently, the ever-popular Justin Timberlake is bringing sexy back!

As you can imagine, we were quite shocked. We weren’t aware sexy was gone, and we certainly didn’t notice it returning in any noticeable way. (Steve asks whether, if one never had sexy in the first place, he’ll receive any now that it’s “back.”)

Besides completely missing the worldwide disappearance of sexy, we also missed the point at which Justin Timberlake was appointed the ultimate guardian of an abstract concept.

We’re not complaining, though, because we feel the return of sexy sets the precedent for us to make ridiculous and generally unfounded claims of our own.

Therefore, we have decided to arbitrarily bring back some important issues we feel deserve to be addressed. We debated for a long time between 1980s snap bracelets and Theodore Roosevelt’s Bull Moose Party.

Deciding they were both impossible to cover in the space available to us, we went for a more abstract concept for which we are even less qualified to champion: “smiting.” That’s right, la-

dies and gentlemen: We’re bringing smiting back.

We can see the questions rising in your “unsmiten” minds even as we type. You might question whether smiting is gone, and you know, if it means being struck down for doing stuff, do we really want it back?

And also, you ask yourself, does this mean that Danger and Culture will be able to smite all of us for not reading their article? Perhaps.

Here’s the real question, however: Did smiting really go anywhere, or have we just been ignoring it?

Does the Old Testament God who smote so regularly (see Sodom and Gomorrah) seem incongruous with the kind, understanding and generally pleasant Jesus Christ (ugly temple and moneychangers incident aside) who makes us feel so warm and fuzzy?

We’re not in a theological debate here. We know there are good reasons for that dissonance. After all, God wrote two books for a reason, but it pays to contrast the image of God as expressed in Scripture to our personal image of God as expressed through our own filter.

How much are we letting our culture and experiences color our ideas about God, and how much do we let God color our ideas about culture and our experiences?

As for American culture: Sure, it’s got its problems. We know that. And we’re pretty confident that given enough room to write we could probably fix them all. So that will be the focus of our first national bestseller.

But for now, we’re just asking you (and ourselves) to step back and check your personal culture. Ask yourself: Are you becoming more like Christ, or is your Christ becoming more like you?

Also, be thinking of someone we can smite, and watch your back: You don’t want to be caught unawares when we bring it back.



By AMY WATKINS  
COLUMNIST

For the next two years, you can expect to hear about Barack Obama frequently.

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, Obama broke into the national spotlight with a well-received keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. He has since published his second book, “The Audacity of Hope,” which has spent several months on the national bestseller lists.

On Feb. 10, he announced his presidential candidacy in his home state of Illinois, with more than 15,000 elated spectators hanging on to his every word.

His loyal supporters, the success of his book or his campaign for the nation’s highest office are not, however, what make Obama such an object of curiosity. What separates this young senator from the rest of the pack is his racial background: His father was from Kenya, and his mother was a white American from Kansas. He could become the nation’s first black president.

Regardless of how appealing Obama’s story about overcoming racial discrimination may be, his chances of winning the Democratic presidential nomination and

a spot in the White House will ultimately come down to more practical matters. Since we are all voters (or should be), let me take this opportunity to give you some of the pros and cons surrounding this popular politician.

Unquestionably, Obama’s biggest asset is his charisma and ability to inspire people from different cultural groups. He has promoted the idea that, “There is not a liberal America and a conservative America — there is the United States of America,” leading many to speculate that he could do an excellent job of uniting the country during a time of intense political division.

People have also praised him for his focus on the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa, a cause that has made him an ally with evangelical leader Rick Warren, who invited Obama to speak at his San Diego church last fall.

Unfortunately, it’s impossible to consider Obama’s record without noting his lack of experience on the national political scene. He remains untested after a relatively easy 2004 Senate campaign in which the original Republican nominee was forced to withdraw amidst a scandal.

And despite all the talk of bipartisanship and compromising with people on the other side of the political aisle, there is no way around the fact that Obama is one of the most liberal members of the Senate.

Also, his quick rise to fame

and seemingly endless confidence can be troubling to someone like myself, who knows all too well what can potentially happen when politicians get arrogant.

I suspect that many evangelical Christians will immediately dismiss Obama due to his abortion rights, pro-stem cell research and pro-gay rights stands. However, I do believe that it’s worth considering his candidacy a little more closely.

Further inspection reveals that Obama is not only a Christian and a family man, but also opposed to gay marriage and in favor of making faith part of the national

political conversation. It’s also worth considering how much effect the president actually has on the number of abortions, homosexual relationships or other seemingly immoral activities that occur in this country every day.

Over the next two years, each of us will have multiple opportunities to get to know Barack Obama better. Whether or not you decide to support him (I haven’t made up my mind), his candidacy represents something new in American politics. If the country is improved as a result, I submit that Obama has already won.

The Echo

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The mission of *The Echo* is to fairly and without bias represent the views of diverse voices on Taylor University’s campus and to be a vehicle of accurate and pertinent information to the student body, faculty and staff. *The Echo* also aims to be a forum that fosters healthy discussion about relevant issues, acting as a catalyst for change on our campus.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be sent to echo@tayloru.edu by 3 p.m. on Wednesday and be no longer than 400 words. Due to volume, not all opinion articles received can be printed. Opinions should be kept as concise as possible. The Echo reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.



Barack Obama, a Democrat presidential candidate.



No. 22 Taylor wins big Track runs to victory



Photo by Ellen Koch

Lady Trojans seniors Jenny Dawes, Amber Bond, Amanda Bond and Allison Easterhaus.

By Andrew Neel  
Sports Editor

It's about time. That was the sentiment of the Lady Trojans' coaches, players and fans after Taylor's women's basketball team cracked into the NAIA (Division II) Top 25 poll for the first team all season. Taylor (20-9, 10-5 Mid-Central Conference) had not been ranked in the Top 25 before Wednesday's ratings,

which placed the Lady Trojans at No. 22. It's a well-deserved reward for a Taylor team that has played one of the toughest schedules in the nation this season. "I've told our ladies to keep working hard and it's good to finally get recognized," Taylor Coach Tena Krause said. The Lady Trojans celebrated their new ranking by playing like a Top 25 team Thursday night as they de-

molished Spring Arbor (8-19, 5-10) 71-46. The game at Don Odle Arena was Senior Night for the Lady Trojans, who honored the career-long contributions of Amber Bond, Amanda Bond, Jenny Dawes and Allison Easterhaus. Taylor cruised to a 71-50 victory over Goshen (6-23, 1-14) Saturday thanks to 15 points from Dawes. Taylor plays at 1 p.m. Saturday at No. 1 IWU.

By Anna Daniels  
Staff Writer

Taylor's track teams continued this season's strong start Saturday at the Anderson Invitational, where the men's track team won 8 of the 17 events. The men's distance medley relay team of sophomores Chris Leman and Andy Marston and freshmen David Brooks and Michael Pabody took first in 10 minutes, 49 seconds, almost 22 seconds ahead of the second place team from Calumet College. Saturday "was a good improvement," Coach Ted Bowers said. "[The teams] hit their goal of qualifying for nationals, [but] the best is yet to come." The Lady Trojan distance medley relay team also qualified provisionally for nationals with a time of 12:53.35. Senior Lolly York, junior Vanessa Fereshetian and freshmen Tabitha Bogue and Alyssa Johnson ran without competition, since no other teams entered the race. "It is always more difficult to race the clock than a person," York said. "It requires much more self-motivation when no one is around you

to push or pull you through the race." Fereshetian said the relay team ran a solid race and are now seven seconds away from qualifying for the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships. The Lady Trojans' distance medley relay time broke the Anderson indoor track record of 12:54, Bowers said. The men's team collected a smattering of top finishes in addition to the distance medley relay win. Senior Lamont Laing placed first in 6.59 and sophomore Ian Brown placed second with a 6.66 in the 55-meter dash. "We've been working hard all week gearing up for the Christian Nationals," Laing said. "I felt I put to work what I'd been doing all week. I just ran the best I could." In the field events, senior Mitch Jones placed first in the pole vault (14-6), while freshman Jason Crist placed first in the high jump (6-2). Junior Drew Cowan also finished first in the shot put and the weight throw. In addition to their positions on the distance medley relay team, Brooks ran the men's 1,000-meter race in 2:45.14 to win second place,

and Pabody took third in the 3,000 with a time of 9:02.24. Marston, senior Randal Dunbar, junior Ryan Gregory and freshman Brad Wetherell finished only two seconds short of first place in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3:28. Marston said the race was close and had a fittingly dramatic ending. "We ran more as a team this week, [but] we weren't the best team there," Marston said. Marston won the 400, taking first with a time of 51.84. The Lady Trojans also collected top finishes to complement the distance medley relay win. Bogue finished first in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 3:17.09. Johnson finished second, close behind Bogue in 3:25.82, while freshman Alyssa Hartman took fourth in 3:31.48. "It was awesome. The Lord definitely helped me through that entire race," Bogue said. "[Johnson] was right with me the whole time. It was good just to know she was there [to] help push me to where I should be." In addition, York finished the mile run in 5:20.99, good for second place.

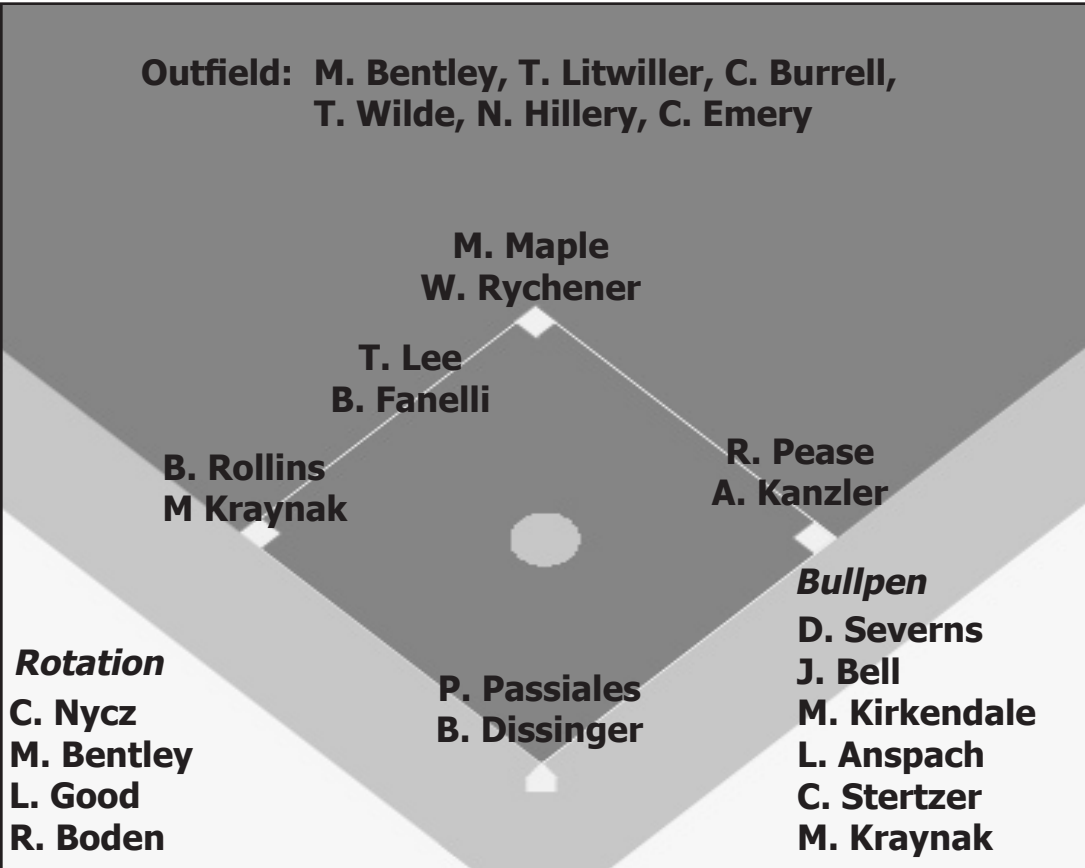
Trojans baseball steps up to the plate in 2007

By Ryan Schmucker  
Contributor

Taylor baseball hopes to surpass last season's school-record 33 victories with a trip to the NAIA National Tournament in 2007. In 2006, the Trojans won the Mid-Central Conference Tournament championship and earned a berth in the NAIA Region VIII Tournament. The team enjoyed a No. 22 NAIA ranking on April 12 last season, and the Trojans hope to move past that mark early this year. "We achieved a lot last year with a school record in wins and a trip to the regionals, but we have new goals this year," senior Mike Bentley said. "We expect to win a conference championship and go on to compete at [NAIA] nationals."

Taylor's team returns with only 11 players from last year's squad. Gone is Trent Mast, a four-year starter who led the team in RBIs and capped off his tremendous career with an NAIA All-American Honorable Mention award. Two other key losses are Luke Baeslack and Matt Wiseman, starting pitchers that anchored the staff last year. Also gone are designated hitter Dustin Miller and outfielder Chuck Burkhardt. These seniors left a considerable gap for the Trojans to fill in the off-season, so Coach Kyle Gould brought in a highly talented and plentiful freshman class. Twelve freshman and two transfer students join the 11 returning players to comprise the full 25-man roster. Senior first baseman Ricky

Pease voiced the team's excitement about the influx of new talent. "Even though we have a lot of young guys, we are extremely excited about their potential and how they can contribute to the team," Pease said. This year, the Trojans' pitching staff is as deep as it has ever been, Gould said. The core of the pitching staff includes seniors Chris Nycz, Mike Bentley, Justin Bell and junior Drew Severns, all of whom played in a significant number of innings in 2006. "The thing I'm really excited about is the depth on the pitching staff as well as the load of potential we have," Nycz said. "With the returning players anchoring the rotation, we are going to have a great staff."



Trojans go 1-1 this week, prepare for IWU tomorrow: Taylor defeats Spring Arbor, falls to Goshen in triple overtime

By Amy Watkins  
Contributor

Taylor's men's basketball team had two close games this week, but only one ended with a Trojans win. Taylor (14-15, 6-9 Mid-Central Conference) outlasted Spring Arbor (16-13, 4-11) 59-53 Thursday night. Saturday's game against Goshen (12-17, 4-11) was everything hoped for by Trojans fans - except for the result. The Trojans and the Maple Leafs put on a thrilling triple-overtime game but Goshen, led by 29 points from Errick McCollum, defeated Taylor in the end, 95-85. The Trojans excelled offensively in the first half, shooting 68 percent from the field and getting solid perimeter play from guards Daniel Cox and Drew Kring. Taylor shot especially lethally from outside, as the Trojans went 7-for-11 from 3-point range on the way to a 39-33 halftime lead. "Games aren't won in the first 10 minutes," Tay-

lor Coach Paul Patterson said. "We got off to a good start, but we traded baskets with [Goshen] and when the smoke cleared we were only up six points at halftime." Taylor foul trouble in the second half allowed the Maple Leafs to come back. Goshen scored eight points off free throws in the final 10 minutes of the game, and a "We missed chances to win the game ... You only get so many lives." -Paul Patterson- successful 3-point basket by McCollum tied the score at 63-63 with 1:30 to go, sending the game into overtime. Goshen could have won the game at the end of the first overtime, but Willie Frazier missed a free throw with 20 seconds left, allowing the Trojans to stay alive and force a second overtime. In the second extra period, Cox stole the show with a four-point play in the closing seconds that tied the game

for Taylor and forced another five minutes of play. In the third overtime, Goshen dominated the Trojans to win the game 95-85 thanks to seven points by McCollum in the overtime. The loss was a disappointing end for the Trojans after playing 55 minutes of inspired basketball. "We missed chances to win the game; we just had breakdowns where we didn't make plays when we needed to," Patterson said. "You only get so many lives." During halftime, three students were given the chance to win free textbooks by making a 3-point shot, but none of them were able to walk away with the prize. Other students won cash and a free dinner with Dean of Students Skip Trudeau. The athletic department will distribute free T-shirts and host chances for students to win cash and a semester of free tuition at Taylor's final home game at 3 p.m. Saturday against MCC rival Indiana Wesleyan.

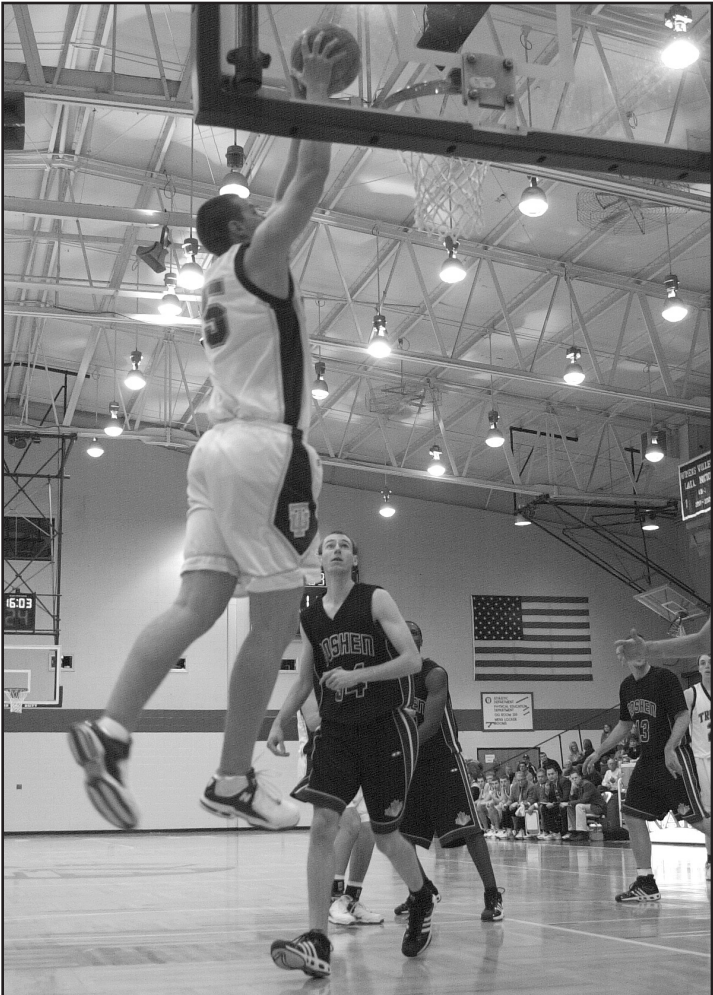


Photo by Timmy Huynh

Jacob Bream skies for a dunk against Goshen after an alley-oop pass from Chad Reynolds. Taylor lost 95-85 (3 OT).

**Trojans Sports**  
(Home games in bold)

**Men's Basketball**  
(14-15, 6-9)  
*L, 95-85 (3 OT) Goshen*  
*W, 59-53 Spring Arbor*  
Upcoming games:  
**Saturday**  
**Indiana Wesleyan 3 p.m.**  
Wednesday  
MCC Tourney TBD

**#22 Women's Basketball**  
(20-9, 10-5)  
*W, 71-50 Goshen*  
*W, 71-46 Spring Arbor*  
Upcoming games:  
Saturday  
at Indiana Wesleyan 1 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
**MCC Tourney**  
**Huntington 7 p.m.**

**Track**  
*Feb. 10, Anderson Inv. (Men's)*  
*Won 8 of 17 events (Women's)*  
*DMR team qualified for NAIA Nationals*  
Upcoming events:  
Saturday  
at DePauw 10 a.m.